

## Message Text

MRN: 1975BRASIL004406 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX  
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE  
ADP000  
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12  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W  
----- 063935  
R 041900Z JUN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9561

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 4406

8. THE LAST ACT OF THIS LETTLE EXERCISE WAS A TELEPHONE  
CALL ON LATE MAY 30 FROM SILVEIRA, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED  
TO THE OFFICE FROM COCHABAMBA AND WHO WANTED, OSTENSIBLY,  
TO TALK ABOUT ANOTHER MATTER. SILVEIRA LAUNCHED INTO THE  
AGREEMENT QUESTION, SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY  
GUERREIRO AND MARIZ. IN HIS RATHER DISJOINTED AND VOLUBLE  
STYLE AND WITH A CERTAIN BLUSTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER  
SAID: THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT IN 1948 AMONG BRAZIL,  
ARGENTINA AND MEXICO, AND RAFAEL DE LA COLINA COULD VERIFY IT;  
HE HAD NEVER SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS A PARTY TO IT;  
HE HAD MENTIONED IT AT SOME LENGTH TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ROGERS WHO HAD SAID THAT HE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF IT; THE  
SECRETARY HAD VOLUNTEERED TO HIM AT LUNCH THAT HE WOULD LIKE  
THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE A COMMON POSITION WITH BRAZIL ON  
THE ELECTION. SILVEIRA REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE HAD  
NEVER SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE  
AGREEMENT. ON THE 1968 ELECTIONS, HE SAID THAT THERE HAD  
BEEN "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" AND THAT IN ANY CASE A NATIONAL  
OF A NON-MAJOR COUNTRY HAD BEEN ELECTED. ON SARNEY, HE AT  
FIRST CLAIMED THAT SARNEY HAD NOT MENTIONED THE UNITED  
STATES IN HIS SPEECH. WHEN I REPLIED THAT I CAREFULLY HAD GONE  
OVER THE TEXT OF THE SENATOR'S REMARKS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL  
RECORD AND WOULD BE GLAD TO SEND HIM MY MARKED COPY,  
SILVEIRA FELL BACK AND SAID: "IN ANY CASE, WE HAD NOTHING  
TO DO WITH HIS STATEMENT". HE THEN SAID HE WOULD SPEAK  
TO SARNEY ABOUT THE LACK OF US INVOLVEMENT. I RESPONDED  
THAT THAT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL INDEED. I TOLD SILVEIRA  
THAT I APPRCITED HIS CALL AND THAT, IN LIGHT OF HIS  
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STATEMENTS AND HIS OFFER, I CONSIDERED THE MATTER CLOSED.

9. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT THE EXERCISE WAS USEFUL IN THAT IT HELPED CONFIRM WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE ARE NOT SUPINE IN THE FACE OF THIS KIND OF SELF-SERVING CHEAP SHOT AND THAT WE, LIKE HIM, CAN REACT WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT WE ARE BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF. IN THE BROADER SENSE, HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS THAT, IN THE MIND OF THE AVERAGE INFORMED BRAZILIAN, THERE HAS BEEN EMBEDDED THE IDEA THAT, IN THE OAS ELECTION, RESPONSIBLE, UPRIGHT BRAZIL, LOYAL TO ITS COMMITMENTS, WAS HAD BY THE CYNICAL DISREGARD BY THE US (AND ARGENTINA) OF A SOLEMN COMMITMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY A PUBLIC CHALLENGE OF THE BRAZILIAN VERSION WOULD HAVE ATTENUATED THAT PROBLEM, AND GIVEN SILVEIRA'S PERSONAL STAKE IN THE VERSION, WE WOULD HAVE HAD A FIRST-CLASS PUBLIC HASSLE. (WITH RESPECT TO SILVEIRA'S OWN INTEREST, A VERY KEEN MIDDLE-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER HAS POINTED OUT TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE EMBARRASSING OVER-REACTION TO ORFILA' ELECTION WAS THE RESULT, IN HIS VIEW, OF THE FACT THAT A KEY CONSIDERATION IN SILVEIRA'S SELECTION AS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN THE BELIEF THAT HE COULD "HANDLE" THE ARGENTINES.

10. SINCE I AM SKEPTICAL THAT SILVEIRA WILL REALLY SPEAK TO SARNEY, I INTEND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME OPPORTUNITY TO ASK THE SENATOR WHETHER HE HAS BEEN SPOKEN TO. IF HE HAS NOT, I WILL EXPLAIN OUR POSITION TO HIM. I HAVE INSTRUCTED EMBASSY OFFICERS TO DO THE SAME, IF THEY ARE ASKED DIRECTLY BY IMPORTANT CONTACTS ABOUT THE US ROLE IN THE ELECTION.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, SECRETARY GENERAL, TREATY VIOLATION, PRESS COMMENTS, PFOR, ELECTIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BRASIL04406  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** CORE1  
**Film Number:** D750198-0349  
**From:** BRASILIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaactyt.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, ADS TEXT UNRETRIEVABLE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 120939, 75 STATE 123060, 75 BRASILIA 4112  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 04 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <17 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BR, US, OAS  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006